

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 /096 W

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P R 311733Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4016

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE DEBT RE-NEGOTIATIONS

1. DR. GEHRING, WHO HANDLES DEBT RE-NEGOTIATIONS IN FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY, INFORMED EMBOFF OCTOBER 31 THAT ZAIRE MISSION HAD VISITED BONN TO REQUEST A BILATERAL RE-NEGOTIATION OF 1975, 1976, AND 1977 LIABILITIES. GEHRING SAID THAT FRG STRONGLY FAVORS THE PRINCIPLE OF MULTILATERAL RE-NEGOTIATIONS WHICH INCLUDE ALL MAJOR CREDITOR COUNTRIES, BOTH AS MEANS FOR OBTAINING COMMITMENTS FROM DEBTOR COUNTRIES TO UNDERTAKE WHATEVER CHANGES ARE NECESSARY IN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES AND AS A MEANS FOR ENSURING EQUALITY AMONG THE CREDITORS. FRG IS THUS MOST UNHAPPY ABOUT ZAIRE REQUEST FOR BILATERAL RE-NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. GEHRING UNDERSTANDS THAT ZAIRE MISSION IS NOW

IN WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH USG. HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER ZAIRE MISSION HAS REQUESTED BILATERALS WITH US FOR HANDLING 1975-77 LIABILITIES, AND IF SO, US REACTIONS. FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALSO BEEN REQUESTED TO REQUEST THIS INFORMATION.

3. STRESSING THAT THESE WERE ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, GEHRING NOTED THAT US IS LARGEST ZAIRE CREDITOR, THAT ZAIRE MUST BE OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO US, AND THAT FRENCH HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT MULTI-LATERAL APPROACH IN THEIR EYES IS NO LONGER VALID. (GEHRING REFERRED TO NORTH KOREA RE-NEGOTIATIONS AND ADDED THAT FRANCE AS WELL AS BELGIUM HAS ALREADY AGREED TO ZAIRE REQUEST FOR BILATERALS.) GEHRING THEREFORE WONDERED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO ORGANIZE A WASHINGTON CLUB TO RE-NEGOTIATE ZAIRE DEBT.
HILLENBRAND

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